



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/518,998	12/21/2004	Scott Allan Kendall	PU020616	6965
24498	7590	07/06/2009		
Thomson Licensing LLC			EXAMINER	
P.O. Box 5312			BAIG, SAHAR A	
Two Independence Way				
PRINCETON, NJ 08543-5312			ART UNIT	
			PAPER NUMBER	
			2424	
			MAIL DATE	
			DELIVERY MODE	
			07/06/2009	
			PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary**Application No.**

10/518,998

Applicant(s)

KENDALL, SCOTT ALLAN

Examiner

SAHAR A. BAIG

Art Unit

2424

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 April 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF/ICE)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-30 have been considered but based on the amended claim language they are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-30 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zimmerman (US Patent Publication No. 2003/0093789) in view of Imazeki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,535,164) in view of Schwoegler US Patent Publication No. 2001/0030624.

Regarding Claim 1, 10, 11, 20, 21, and 30, Zimmerman discloses a television signal receiver having an emergency alert function, comprising: a tuner operative to tune a frequency including emergency alert signals indicating an emergency event [0011 lines 6-12]; but fails to explicitly disclose a memory operative to store information associated with the emergency alert function, said memory further operative to receive updated information and replace said information associated with the emergency alert function with said updated information.

In an analogous art, Imazeki discloses a memory unit **[Code Memory 3]** for storing information associated with the emergency alert function **[Col. 2 line 1; the area code CAC (Current Area Code) stored in the code memory...]**, said memory further operative to receive updated information and replace said information associated with the emergency alert function with said updated information **[Col. 3 lines 32-35; contents of the code memory are always updated to the area code CAC of the current area automatically. Therefore, it is always possible to receive the emergency broadcast of this area correctly]**.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Zimmerman and Imazeki to provide up to date emergency geographic specific information for civilian safety.

Still the combined teachings of Zimmerman and Imazeki fail to teach the limitation of a processor operative to automatically enable a network connection, responsive to said emergency alert signals, to a source of information related to the emergency alert function and retrieve updated information related to the emergency alert function. In an analogous art, Schwoegier discloses this limitation in paragraphs **0061, 0085, 0095 and 0096** where it is taught that up to date weather alerts are constantly provided to the users. The user is able to receive real time environmental information that relates to the user's location. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Schwoegier with Zimmerman and Imazeki to devise an

apparatus capable of receiving up to date information over a network to keep information current.

Regarding Claim 2, 12, 22, Zimmerman discloses that the updated information comprises geographical area information **[0005 Zimmerman's apparatus sends emergency broadcast alerts regarding the affected geographical area]**.

Regarding Claim 3, 13, and 23, Zimmerman discloses the geographical area information comprises location code. **[Figure 1 Memory 170 has an Emergency Code unit 180 that stores location codes]** Although it is not clearly shown to be FIPS, it would have been obvious to ordinary skill in the art to include the six-digit Federal Information Processing System (FIPS) since it is an industry standard.

Regarding Claim 4, 14, and 24, Zimmerman discloses that the updated information in the television signal receiver comprises transmission frequency information **[0069 Tuner 310 down converts select frequency channels of the received broadcast content stream to video, audio and other signals that are processed in standby mode circuitry 316 and monitored by content monitoring system 200]**.

Regarding Claim 5, 15, and 25, Zimmerman discloses that the updated information is provided via a website **[0069 Antenna 305 receives broadcast content streams from television broadcast stations, radio broadcast stations, Internet Websites, and the like]**.

Regarding Claim 6, 7, 16, 17, 26, and 27, Zimmerman discloses in **Figure 2** a processor operative to automatically enable a connection to the website responsive to the emergency alert signals **[0046]**.

Regarding Claim 8, 18, and 28, Zimmerman discloses that the emergency alert signals include hyperlink data that enables access to the website **[0041 select data retrieved over the Internet or the like, including, for instance, some metadata]**.

Regarding Claim 9, 19, and 29, although Zimmerman does not explicitly disclose the updated information being periodically updated, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include this feature in the system since emergency broadcast have a calamitous need to be up to date for civilian safety.

Conclusion

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SAHAR A. BAIG whose telephone number is (571)270-3005. The examiner can normally be reached on 4/5/9.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Kelley can be reached on 571-272-7331. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Christopher Kelley/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 2424

SB